In the Specification

Please rewrite page 3, lines 23-24 of the specification as follows:

mixing at least silicasilicon, silicon nitride carbide and a pore former;

e firings 1750°C & 4 hr 1.3 Pa 1450°C & 4 hr Separat (room Ex. 10 1450°C 2 hr Norma] then Yes 2 Ar N_2 1750°€ & Separate firings (room temp.) 1450°C 1450°C 4 σ 1.3 Pa then 4 hr Normal 2 hr Yes Ar EX. 0 1750°C & Separate firings (room temp.) БВ 1450°C 1450°C 4 hr Normal then 4 hr 2 hr Yes 40 Ar $_{N}^{N}$ 1.3 Ж Ж 1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr Separate firings (room temp.) Ъа 1450°C Normal 2 hr Yes 30 Ar N_2 . Ж 1.3 then 1750°C & Separate firings (room temp.) 1450°C 9 1.3 Pa 1450°C 4 hr Normal 4 hr Yes 10 Ar $^{N}_{2}$ EX. Separate firings (room temp.) pressure: 10 1750°C & 4 Ar (oxygen 1450°C & 4 hr partial 1450°C 2 hr Normal Normal then Yes Pa) ž 10 EX. 1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & Separate firings (room temp.) Ра 1450°C Normal Ex. 4 2 hr 4 hr Yes Ar 유 $_{ m N}^{ m Z}$ 0 1.3 Separate firings (room temp.) 1450°C & 1750°C & 1450°C Normal 4 hr then Yes N_2 EX. 0 1.3 Ar 1750°C & 4 hr firing (1400°C) [[!.3]] 1.3 Pa 1450°C 8 4 hr 1450°C N Normal 2 hr then Yes Ж Ж 10 Ar 1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr Separate firings 1450°C Normal (room EX. 1 2 hr Ar \mathbb{Z}_2 Yes 1.3 Before-nitriding firing and during-nitriding Atmosphere Atmosphere Temp. and time Before-nitriding firing of formed body Pressure Pressure firing (temp. of atmosphere change) Temp. Time (starch) (mass %) Pore former Firing conditions firing conditions Aid (SrCO₃) of formed body During-nitriding (mass %)

Please amend Table 1-1 on page 29 of the specification as follows:

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Aid (SrCO ₃)		17 . 41	EX. IZ	EX. 13	Ex. 14
,		Н	3	1	
(mass %)					
Pore former		30	10	10	10
(starch) (mass %)	5 %)				
Before-nitriding firing of formed body	ing ned body	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
w	Pressure	1.3 Pa	[[:.3]] 1. 3 Pa	Normal	Normal
of formed At	Atmosphere	Ar	Ar	Ar (oxygen	Ar (oxygen
r r r				partial	partial
				pressure: 10	pressure: 10
				Pa)	Pa)
Ĕ	Temp.	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C
Ţ	Time	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr
	Pressure	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Ing	Atmosphere	N ₂	N_2	N ₂	N ₂
firing				containing 5	containing 5
conditions				vol. % of	vol. % of
				hydrogen	hydrogen
Ĭ	Temp. and	1450°C &	1200°C &	1450°C &	1450°C &
	time	4 hr	12 hr	4 hr	4 hr
****		then			
		1750°C &			
		4 hr			
Before-nitriding firing	ing firing	Separate	Separate	Separate	Same firing
and during-nitriding	riding	firings	firings	firings	(1450°C)
firing (temp. of	of	(room	moor)	(room temp.)	
atmosphere change)	ange)	temp.)	temp.)		